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13 February 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant, CR

SUBJECT : Comparison of Air Force and CIA Coding of Air Information Reports - Status Report as of 6 February.

1. Summary for the Period 9 - 13 February.

a. Documents Reviewed
137

Documents with Coding Errors

By AFCEH
68 (20%)By CIA
11 (3%)b. Estimated number of codes
assigned to the 137 documents
(3 codes per document)
1011

Coding Errors

By AFCEH
76 (7.5%)By CIA
11 (1.1%)

2. Breakdown of CIA errors:

a. Incorrect codes

5

b. Significant information not coded.

6

Total

11

3. Breakdown of AFCEH errors:

a. Incorrect subject codes

30

b. Significant information not coded.

40

c. Differences in AFCEH and CIA coding philosophy

Total

6

76

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-2-

4. Comments:

- a. The number of Air Force errors due to generalized coding has become almost negligible. In most cases proper breakdowns of overall codes have been used.
- b. Incorrect codes appear to be due to hasty reading of the documents, so that the analyst fails to realize the overall meaning of the information. Often the analyst will choose a code that fits a key word in the document, but fails to convey the real meaning of the document. In other cases, the analyst misinterprets information in such a way that it is evident he has only scanned the document hastily.
- c. Most of the significant information which is not coded is of an economic, political, or sociological type. With the forthcoming reduction in Air Force reporting of economic, and political information, this will not be a problem in the future. Technical and military information is usually fully coded.
- d. Differences in coding philosophy result in relatively few errors. Air Force coders do not cross reference particular codes to other codes as is CIA custom. They seem to be unfamiliar with the standard codes circulated in CIA on coding memos, although they receive a copy of each of these memos.
- e. It is interesting to note that the use of clear text coding is restricted to code names for types of aircraft, place names, and an occasional industrial term.

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met with Major Malcom and Mr. Stein (AFCIN 1B-2) on 9 February to discuss errors consistently made by AFCIN coders and to devise means of correction. AFCIN agreed that they can not afford the margin of error that we have found. They have since the meeting instituted a program of rigorous review the fruits of which we may see within the next week or two.

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Chief, Document Division

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